



HR1387

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Steve Olson on the
4 occasion of his retirement as Fire Chief for the City of Geneva
5 Fire Department; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief Olson retired on June 30, 2016 after 42
7 years with the Geneva Fire Department, including 20 years as
8 Chief; he was hired in 1974 as a paid on-call firefighter; he
9 was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in 1978 and joined the
10 department on a full-time basis the following year; he was
11 named Captain in 1982, Deputy Fire Chief in 1986, and Fire
12 Chief in 1996; he oversaw a department of 26 full-time
13 firefighter/paramedics and over 40 paid on-call firefighters;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Chief Olson helped modernize the department with
16 construction of two fire stations, which included a new
17 headquarters; he also purchased updated vehicles and
18 equipment; he initiated a community-based automated external
19 defibrillator program that assisted local businesses and
20 organizations in acquiring the devices along with training,
21 installation, and maintenance; and

22 WHEREAS, Chief Olson developed the successful in-service

1 company inspection program that ensures the department
2 annually inspects all commercial properties and introduced the
3 use of laptop computers in fire vehicles to provide critical
4 building information to responding firefighters and
5 paramedics; he helped lead the department through an exhaustive
6 process that resulted in the department, becoming an
7 internationally accredited agency in 2001, a status it has
8 successfully maintained through the subsequent 15 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Olson has made an indelible impact on the
10 fire department, the city, and the community; he is the epitome
11 of selfless leadership; and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Olson is a lifelong Geneva resident; he and
13 his wife, Beth, have three daughters, all of whom graduated
14 from Geneva High School; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
17 congratulate Steve Olson on his retirement as Fire Chief for
18 the City of Geneva Fire Department; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Chief Olson as an expression of our esteem and
21 respect.